

Week of March 3, 2003: MaineDOT Flash Facts

Topic: Night Driving

Facts:

In Maine, from 1999 to 2001:

- More than 32,000 crashes occurred after dark. Almost 200 people were killed and about 12,000 were injured.
- Nearly 9,000 crashes occurred during dawn and dusk. Over 50 people were killed and more than 3,000 injured.

Night and Animals

Dusk to Dawn Animal crash occurrences:

- DEER-Over 80% (10,238 out of 12,325)
- MOOSE-Nearly 90% (1,803 out of 2,068)

At Dark:

- DEER-Over 70% (8,741 out of 12,325)
- MOOSE-Nearly 80% (1,608 out of 2,068)

Other Night Facts:

102 crash fatalities occur between 9PM and 3AM. (20%)

56 fatalities occurred between midnight and 3AM. That's more than 10% of the states fatalities occurring when only about 1% of the state's daily traveling is done. These are dangerous hours.

Monday

Opener

Driving at night...you've got the radio on and the road to yourself. But according to the Maine DOT, it only seems relaxing. It could be one of the most dangerous times to be on the road. More after the break.

Flash Facts

Driving at night is something we all do, and the MaineDOT wants to make sure you drive safely. Even though you may feel you have the road to yourself, reduced visibility makes nighttime one of the most dangerous times to drive.

More than 10% of fatalities take place between midnight and 3 pm, even though only 1% of the state's daily traveling takes place during that time.

- More than 80% of collisions with deer and almost 90% of collisions with moose take place between the hours of dusk and dawn. Night is when these animals are the most active and the hardest to see.

Be a road model - slow down and drive carefully at night.

Wednesday

Opener

Nighttime driving requires more caution than daytime driving - especially this time of year. After the break, we'll tell you why.

Flash Facts

It's even more dangerous to drive at night this time of year. Why? As temperatures warm up during the day, they melt roadside snow and ice. At night, the snowmelt regularly turns into icy spots that are almost impossible to see. The MaineDOT says that to avoid icy surprises after dark, you should:

- Listen regularly to weather and road reports. Check the temperature before you leave the house at night and in the morning.
- Watch well ahead for wet or glossy pavement.
- Be especially careful as you round curves, where handling is critical and your view may be obstructed. Head-on collisions are the most dangerous kind of crashes.

Be a road model - be especially aware of road conditions now.

Friday

Opener

The importance of being seen is not just a Hollywood phenomenon. The MaineDOT wants you to be seen in Maine as well. More after the break.

Flash Facts

It's important to watch out for other cars and for pedestrians when you're driving. But the MaineDOT reminds you to make it easy for others to see you. If you're a pedestrian, wear reflective clothing. If you're driving, make sure your headlights are on according to Maine law - one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.

- During dawn and dusk, you can see fine, but others can't see you.
- Almost 9,000 crashes occurred over the last three years during dawn and dusk.
- One-quarter of those crashes resulted in injury.

Be a road model - make it easy for other drivers to see you first.